

Mr. Speaker, I therefore ask Members on both sides to support passage of this noncontroversial bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the majority, capably led by Congresswoman MADELEINE BORDALLO of the Republic of Guam, has superbly explained the bill. The National Sea Grant College Program has been an important component in addressing local and regional research for needs for ocean and Great Lakes issues. The program, such as the one at Buford, South Carolina, has been extremely effective in disseminating science-based information to citizens through education and outreach programs.

H.R. 5618 reauthorizes this important marine science program, and I support its passage with particular appreciation for the Buford Laboratory.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on this particular piece of legislation. I want to thank my colleague, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, for his supportive remarks.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5618, amending the National Sea Grant College Program Act and reauthorizing the program that is scheduled to expire fiscal year 2008.

First and foremost, I want to commend Congresswoman BORDALLO of Guam, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans of the Committee on Natural Resources, for taking the initiative to introduce this important legislation. This bill is an example of the efforts by the Congress to support our many Sea Grant College programs in improving marine resource conservation and management.

H.R. 5618 implements changes in the Sea Grant Program, which is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, that were recommended by the National Research Council in their 2006 report that has strong support from the various agencies and the Sea Grant Association. Such recommendations include increasing the interaction between the National Sea Grant and the individual state programs. It will improve programmatic performance reviews that will strengthen oversight and accountability but at the same time will ensure that Sea Grant programs are consistent and supportive of the national objectives. Importantly, the increase in funding levels will greatly assist in the needs of our coastal and Great Lake communities and will improve program activities and research that have been at a standstill because of flat-funding for the past few years.

Like our national land grant programs, the National Sea Grant College Program is a powerful resource in maintaining America's status in the world for research and development of our marine sciences. It is a program that we must continue to strengthen and support.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will authorize funding for the National Sea Grant Program until FY 2014. The inclusion of the many recommendations by the NRC in the language of the bill and the strong support of the Federal agencies and the Sea Grant Association reinforce the necessity to pass this legislation immediately. Given that almost 54 percent of our population lives on the coast, the U.S. has

continued to provide so little for marine policy research. Through H.R. 5618, I am hopeful that we are able to increase this necessary funding to monitor the drastic changes that are greatly affecting our coastlines.

I am grateful for the work that Sea Grant has been able to provide through research and projects to my Congressional district. Through the University of Hawaii, Sea Grant has a strong presence at the American Samoa Community College and has continued to educate students of the necessity in protecting our reefs and marine environments. They have also continued to provide the tools for marine research that is urgently needed by the U.S. territories.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 5618. Again, I thank my colleagues for their support of this legislation.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5618 the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008 authored by my friend and chairwoman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, Representative Madeleine Bordallo.

The National Sea Grant College Program has, since 1966, provided research grants, traineeships and fellowships which help graduate students and researchers study areas of the ocean which have strong effects on people. This is mostly done through the State Sea Grant programs which operate in most coastal States in conjunction with major universities. The Sea Grant programs provide valuable research and education into the economics, public health, and environmental impacts where people connect with the oceans. I have trouble thinking of a better return to the public on our research investments.

The National Sea Grant program operates the Dean John A. Knauss National Marine Policy Fellowship which provides graduate students in ocean science and environmental studies the opportunity to bring their expertise as a fellow in a Congressional office or in a Federal agency office to gain experience and impact ocean policy. In my tenure in Congress, I have had 11 Sea Grant Fellows in my office. They have provided invaluable knowledge and passion for the oceans that have improved my understanding and helped to bolster my fight for the oceans.

In California, we are lucky to have two Sea Grant Programs: the California Sea Grant program operated through the world class University of California system and the Southern California Sea Grant program operated through the University of Southern California. These programs are on the ground in California connecting the research and policy community, providing research grants, and educating the public, scientists, and policy makers on the importance of human interactions with the ocean.

Mr. Speaker, the National Sea Grant programs have done a lot with a little money and I am confident that they will continue this tradition. I cannot emphasize enough the need for this Congress to provide for ocean stewardship now. The oceans and the Great Lakes belong to all the people of the United States and it is our duty to understand the implications of our actions on them. I support the National Sea Grant College Program Amendment Act and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5618, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1714) to clarify the boundaries of Coastal Barrier Resources System Clam Pass Unit FL-64P.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1714

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPLACEMENT OF CERTAIN COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The map subtitled “FL-64P”, relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System unit designated as Coastal Barrier Resources System Clam Pass Unit FL-64P, that is included in the set of maps entitled “Coastal Barrier Resources System” and referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)), is hereby replaced by another map relating to that unit entitled “Coastal Barrier Resources System Clam Pass Unit, FL-64P” and dated July 21, 2005.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep the map referred to in subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1714 is noncontroversial legislation that would replace the Coastal Barrier Resources System map designated as Clam Pass Unit FL-64P to correct legitimate inaccuracies. This legislation is identical to noncontroversial legislation reported by the Committee on Resources during the 109th Congress.

The new map, dated July 21, 2005, that would be adopted by passage of this legislation, would remove approximately 48 acres of private land from the otherwise protected area, or the

OPA, that was established in 1990 to include the Clam Pass Conservation Area. Private land owners indicated that these lands were never held within the conservation area, and were erroneously included in the OPA. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, after completing an exhaustive investigation, agreed that these areas, in fact, were added in error.

□ 1415

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fully supports this technical correction legislation which will also add approximately 68 acres of undeveloped land to the OPA that were previously omitted. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the new map that would be adopted also has been certified as accurate by all local authorities.

Again, I ask my colleagues to support passage of this noncontroversial bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1714, introduced by Congressman CONNIE MACK of Florida, corrects an honest mapping mistake made in the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990. Under current law, only Congress can add or delete property from the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

Under this bill, 48 acres of previously held land would be removed from the system, which would allow the affected homeowners to qualify for Federal flood insurance. We would be making this change because this property is not contained within the designated Clam Pass Conservation Area, these are not inholdings, and these lands were never held for conservation or recreation purposes.

We would be providing this relief because this bill satisfies the threshold of being a legitimate mapping mistake. The Fish and Wildlife Service testified in support of this technical correction, and the new implementing map would add 65 acres of conservation land to the Coastal Barrier Resources System that was overlooked when the unit was originally created. As a result, the net effect of H.R. 1714 is to actually increase the size of the system by 17 acres.

I would urge an "aye" vote on H.R. 1714.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on this legislation. Again, I want to thank my colleague from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for supporting this noncontroversial piece of legislation, and I urge Members to support the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1714.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FISH STOCKING IN NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX LAKES

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3227) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3227

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to authorize the National Park Service to allow the stocking of fish in certain lakes under certain conditions in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

SEC. 2. STOCKING OF CERTAIN LAKES IN NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK, ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, AND LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, may authorize the stocking of fish in lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

(b) *CONDITIONS.*—The following conditions shall apply to stocking of lakes under subsection (a):

(1) *The Secretary is authorized to allow stocking in up to, but not to exceed, 42 lakes. The 42 lakes which may be stocked are those lakes identified for potential stocking under Alternative B of the 2005 North Cascades National Park Service Complex Mountain Lakes Fishery Management Plan Draft.*

(2) *The Secretary shall only stock fish that are—*

(A) *native to the slope of the Cascade Range on which the lake to be stocked is located; and*

(B) *functionally sterile.*

(3) *The Secretary is authorized to coordinate the stocking of fish with the State of Washington.*

(c) *REPORTS.*—The Secretary shall continue a program of research and monitoring of the impacts of fish stocking on park resources and shall report the results of such research and monitoring to the appropriate committees of Congress every 5 years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3227 authorizes the National Park Serv-

ice to stock fish in the North Cascades National Park, the Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. These lakes do not naturally contain fish, but fish stocking has been conducted in these lakes periodically since the late 1800s.

The North Cascades National Park is currently working on the Mountain Lake Fisheries Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement that evaluates fish stocking in the park. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement found that fish stocking could only take place in these lakes if the National Park Service was granted the authority to do so by Congress. During committee consideration of H.R. 3227, changes were made to the bill to incorporate suggestions from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Mr. Speaker, we have no objections to H.R. 3227.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman DOC HASTINGS of Washington State and the cosponsors of this bill should be congratulated for their efforts to ensure continuation of a long-standing and highly successful program that creates fishing opportunities in the North Cascades region.

For over 100 years, 91 of the 245 lakes in the North Cascades Complex have been stocked with fish. This has created recreational opportunities that are important to the quality of life and the region and help sustain the local economy.

I urge support for the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on this legislation. Again, I want to thank the gentleman from South Carolina for his cooperation in managing these three bills this afternoon on the floor.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3227, legislation to allow for the continued stocking of fish in certain alpine lakes in the North Cascades National Park Complex, including the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

Many of these lakes have been stocked since the turn of the 20th century, long before they became part of the National Park complex. For decades, volunteer groups, working with the State of Washington, have stocked trout in a number of lakes in this area under carefully constructed management plans written by State and Park Service biologists. In addition, congressional consideration of the creation of the North Cascades National Park points to allowing fish stocking.

In order to protect this longstanding practice in the North Cascades, I introduced H.R. 3227 to ensure that fish stocking can continue. While I believe the original text of this bill provided the clearest path to the protection and continuation of fish stocking, I am also confident that this amended text also fully ensures the stocking of fish in these lakes.